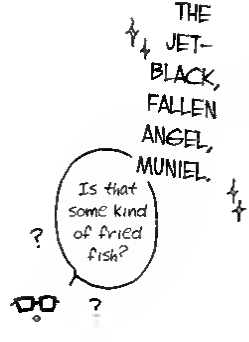
Chapter 15
兄友
あにとも


THE JET-BLACK, FALLEN ANGEL, MUNIEL.
Is that some kind of fried fish?
?
?

Cooking Room
CUTE! HE'S SO PRETTY
HMM? WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU HUNGRY AGAIN?
WHO'S THAT?
A FIRST YEAR?
HOW'D TO SEE ME!?
OH, KAGA-KUN.
THANK YOU.
WE MADE COOKIES IN CLASS, EARLIER. DO YOU WANT SOME?
HAVE MINE, TOO!
WO
OF
Oh my,
W-WOW, YOU GOT GIVEN A LOT.
SENPAI, DID YOU MAKE SOME, TOO?
I WANT
Hya
TO EAT THE ONES YOU MADE.
Rasha
HERE YOU ARE.
I GUESS IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY.

I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT HE WAS NISHINO'S COUSIN, BUT...
I CAN SEE HOW THEY'RE RELATED.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
I'LL EAT THEM WITH CARE.
はぐっ!
K-
わあ
PLEASE DO!
HAVE MINE, TOO!
わぁ わあ
KAGA-KUN'S AURA WHEN HE'S FULL
IS QUITE SOMETHING...

THAT'S WHY...
Recently, your weather reports have not been accurate. Can we rely on this weather forecast?
Don't worry, you can count on this.
Based on the predicted humidity for tomorrow, it will be cloudy.
Will there be a sudden downpour?

You can dye him any color, a so-called, "Color-your-own stag beetle."

This one here is a fictitious stag beetle, and he's the face of the game.

I'll be here until the end of the tutorial!

By the way, did you know that ladybugs and fireflies are also beetles? When I told my supervisor that, I was asked, "What kind of shota will they be?" But of course, with Hana to Hime's editorial committee, I thought they might actually make it a smartphone game.

Regarding Gotcha♥Beetle
It's a game where the bugs that you catch (such as stag beetles or rhinoceros beetles) turn into hotties when you put them in your cage. There are different methods you can use to find them. You can use your camera and actively look for them in the bush, or you can paint honey on a tree and wait for a while. After some time, beetles will gather, lured in by the sweet honey.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
WITH THAT, I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE TODAY, TOO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
WHAT'S WITH HIM...
SO, THE GUY WHO LIKES MAI IS YOUR COUSIN, HUH.

I DON'T DOUBT NANASE-SAN'S FEELINGS, AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING HER GO.
I DON'T NEED YOUR NEGATIVE SUPPORT!
WELL, GOOD LUCK.
IF SHE ENDS UP CROSSING OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE, THINGS WOULD GET PRETTY AWKWARD BETWEEN YOU TWO.
I GET RESTLESS WHEN I THINK THAT HE'S GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO NANASE-SAN WITHOUT ME KNOWING...
HE'S FORCING HIMSELF IN AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. IT'S A PAIN IN THE NECK WHEN WE GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS
BUT I'M NOT OKAY WITH HIM MAKING PASSES AT HER.

ANYWAY, I CAN'T JUST DO NOTHING, YUKIHIRO!
HE'S NOT EVEN LISTE-NING---
NISHINO-SAN, NISHINO-SAN!
WE HEARD IT LOUD AND CLEAR!
YOUR LOVE'S WOES!
AH?!
I FOR-GOT THAT I'M IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM!
DON'T FORGET THAT WE'RE HERE!
THE STUDENT COUNCIL HAS BEEN RELYING ON YOU FOR SO MANY FAVORS, SO LET US HELP YOU OUT FOR ONCE!
AH... RIGHT.
I WON-DER WHY THAT IS...
SO, YOU WANT TO MAKE MR. RIVAL PANIC, RIGHT?
THEN,

CALL HIM OUT AND PUNCH HIM.
SECRETARY, YOU JUST BATHE IN BLOOD!
AS MUCH AS I WOULD LIKE TO, I CAN'T!
THEN WE NEED SOME KIND OF ACTION TO SHOW YOUR GOODWILL AND DRAW HER ATTENTION.
NICE ONE!
SOMETHING LIKE A DATE?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER TO SOMEWHERE SHE LIKES?!
Hmm.
A DATE...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ON A PROPER DATE...
WE HAVEN'T GONE OUT FOR A WALK, EITHER...
AH... I CAN HEAR YUKIHIRO'S VOICE COMING FROM SOMEWHERE...
ARE YOU TWO AN ELDERLY COUPLE?
AND THEN, PURPOSELY MISS THE LAST TRAIN BACK AND TAKE HER TO YOUR HOUSE.
NO WAY THAT'S HAPPENING, IDIOTS!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, THIS IS WHERE THE PLAN REALLY TAKES OFF.
DO YOU THINK I'M A STARVED BEAST?!
RATHER, IF WE PLAYED AROUND UNTIL THAT LATE, WE'D NOMALLY BE TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY! THINK ABOUT OUR AGE!

MOREOVER, A DATE...
SUDDENLY TRYING TO SHRINK THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US JUST BECAUSE I HAVE A RIVAL NOW... MAKES ME FEEL BAD THAT I'M NOT THOUGHTFUL OF HER...
STOP! YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH!
YOU'RE FLOUNDERING TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO IF SHE STARTS THINKING, "I PREFER RIVAL-KUN; SINCE HE'S BETTER AT TAKING THE LEAD"?!
UGH!
No.
NANASE-SAN WON'T...
THOUGHTS LIKE, "I BELIEVE IN HER" AND "I'M NOT GOING TO LAY A HAND ON HER." ARE A DIFFERENT MATTER ALL TOGETHER.
WHERE DID THAT SOUND, LOGICAL ARGUMENT COME FROM?!
M-MY POSITION AS HER BOYFRIEND WILL BE TAKEN IF I SIT CROSS-LEGGED...
THAT MEANS SHE'LL GET WHISKED AWAY!
YOU HAVE TO IMPROVE HER IMPRESSION OF YOU!
Flyz
AT A PLACE YOUR GIRLFRIEND LIKES!
CHOOSE A PLACE THAT SHE LIKES
DO IT
COME ON!
DO IT!
NOW!!

PIRORIN

YOU CAUGHT ME BY SURP-RISE,
SAYING YOU WANTED TO TAKE ME ON A DATE.
TO A DOLLAR STORE, NO LESS!

HAVING A DATE AT A DOLLAR STORE...
WHAT DOES NANASE-SAN THINK OF IT?!
I CHOSE A PLACE THAT NANASE-SAN WOULD LIKE, BUT...
UGH...
I NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO COME TO THIS SHOPPING MALL BECAUSE IT WAS SO FAR FROM MY HOUSE. WHO KNEW IT HAD SUCH A BIG DOLLAR STORE!
AH!
IF WE HAD A "FIRST DATE ANNIVERSARY," WOULD THIS PLACE WORK...?
NO, BUT... THEY'RE QUITE WELL-MADE, SO THIS STORE MIGHT BE MORE OF A "ROUNDED DOLLAR STORE..."
A SILICONE STEAMER? THE DOLLAR STORE IN OUR AREA DOESN'T HAVE ANY, YET THERE ARE SO MANY HERE!
$1
IT'S REALLY ONE DOLLAR!

WOW! THEY'VE GOT RECIPES HERE, AS WELL! THIS PLACE IS AMAZING!
WHILE I'M HERE, SHOULD I BUY SOME CUPCAKE MOULDS[2] IT'S GREAT THAT THERE ARE SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM!
AH, THEY'VE GOT LIGHT AND FLEXIBLE ONES! JUST THE TYPE I WANTED!
THERE ARE SO MANY GOODS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!
AH! A KIT TO MAKE DUMPLINGS AT HOME?!
M MOM MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING WITH THIS
GASP
AH, THIS LOOKS HANDY MULTI-PURPOSE SCISSORS?! IT'LL BE EASIER TO CUT THE BACK OF THE MILK CARTONS WITH THIS!
I-I'M SORRY FOR GETTING EXCITED BY MYSELF...
I'M GLAD I CHOSE THE DOLLAR STORE!

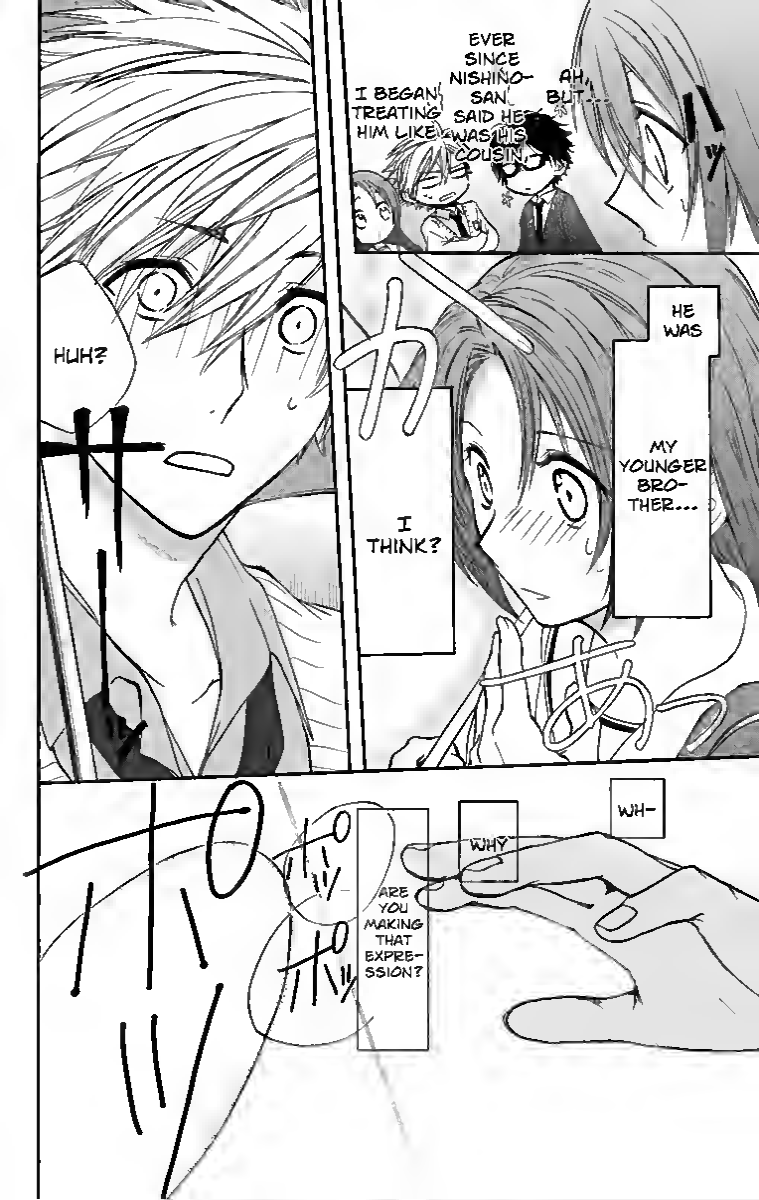
AH, YOU'RE WELCOME.
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME HERE.
U-Um.
I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT THERE TO BE SUCH AN HUGE VARIETY OF PRODUCTS.
AH...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HER HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO SHOW HER THAT I WAS BETTER THAN ITSUKI...
IF I KNEW SHE WOULD ENJOY IT SO MUCH,
I WOULD'VE INVITED HER ON A NORMAL DATE...
FOR COOKING! YOU COULD SAY I'M A BIT INTERESTED IN IT...
N-NO, UM...
I-I WANTED TO HEAR YOUR ADVICE! I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE NEEDING SOME OF THESE THINGS—
R-RIGHT?! IT'S STRANGE, I AGREE!
JOLT
BUT, WHY A DOLLAR STORE?
UGH!

HUH?
I LIKE COOKING THAT YOU'RE SHOWING INTEREST?
IS IT BECAUSE...
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
I'D BE REALLY HAPPY.

GUILT
STAB
AH,
DO YOU MIND IF I HAVE A LOOK OVER THERE, TOO?
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY, NANASE-SAN...
IT'S A BLUE SPRING..
!!??

THERE WE GO.
THEY SAID IT WOULD BE CLOUDY, BUT I'M GLAD I BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA, JUST IN CASE.
THE WEATHER FORECAST HAS BEEN INACCURATE QUITE OFTEN LATELY.
THE CATS ARE GOING TO BE CLEANING THEMSELVES IN THIS WEATHER.
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN? I'VE HEARD THAT FROM SOME-WHERE
AN OLD SAYING: IF A CAT WASHES BEHIND ITS EARS, IT WILL RAIN.
HMM?
YOUR FAMILY DOESN'T OWN A CAT, DO THEY?
AH, NO. I'M TALKING ABOUT STRAYS.
THEY TEND TO GATHER AROUND KAGA-KUN...

THEY ALL STARTED CLEANING THEMSELVES AT THE SAME TIME, SO IT MUST'VE BEEN A SIGN. WE WERE BOTH SURPRISED...
AH... UM...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING ALONG WITH ITSUKI...
UGH...
I'M NO GOOD...
I'M GOING TO HATE MYSELF MORE AND MORE...
YOU THINK...?
Hmm...
HE'S MORE OF AN ACQUAINTANCE THAN A FRIEND TO ME, THOUGH...


I BEGAN TREATING HIM LIKE
EVER SINCE NISHINO-SAN SAID HE WAS HIS COUSIN,
AH, BUT...
HUH?
I THINK?
HE WAS
MY YOUNGER BRO-THER...
WH-
WHY
ARE YOU MAKING THAT EXPRE-SSION?

KYA— IT STARTED POURING!
HOW INACCURATE CAN THAT WEATHER FORECAST BE?!
AH! MY BAG!
あたふた
NANASE-SAN, SWITCH UMBRELLAS WITH ME!
This one's bigger
HUH?!
LET'S HEAD TO THE STATION FOR NOW!
O-OKAY!

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU GOT WET...
JUST A BIT.
I'LL BE FINE.
AHH... NANASE'S HOUSE IS FAR FROM HERE...
I HAVE TO TAKE HER HOME BEFORE SHE CATCHES A COLD...
OH, SORRY—

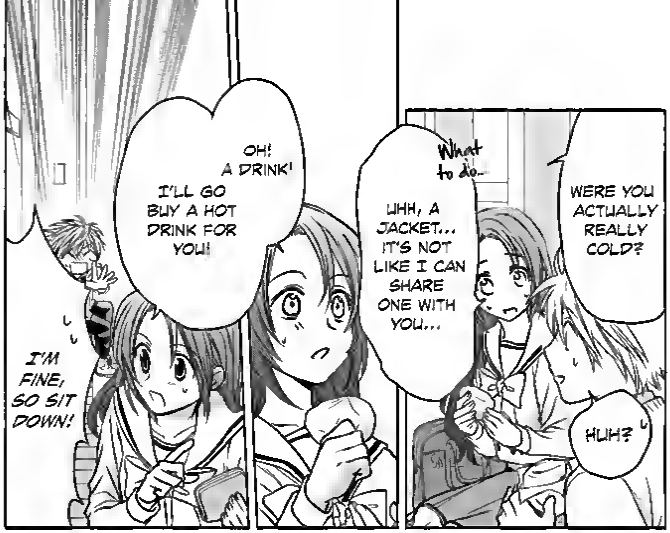
I-ITSUKI?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
IT'S THE END OF THE MONTH, SO I WAS ABOUT TO HEAD TO YOUR HOUSE TO PAY THE MONTHLY TUITION FEE...
BUT I HAPPENED TO BUMP INTO AUNTIE WHILE ON MY WAY THERE, SO I GAVE IT TO HER. IS THAT OKAY?
THAT'S FINE...
NISHINO-SAN?
!
!
OH? KAGA-KUN!
What a coincidence.
HAPPY
AHHH HHHH HHH!

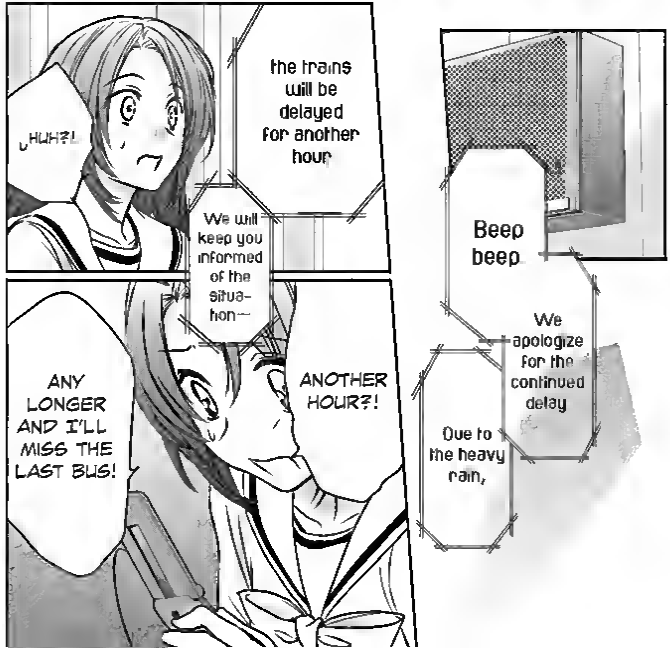
THINGS AREN'T LOOKING GOOD.
HUH?
SENPAI, ARE YOU ON THE WAY HOME?
IT'S FAR FROM HERE, ISN'T IT?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
THE TRAINS HAVE STOPPED RUNNING.
THEY DON'T KNOW WHEN IT'S GOING TO GET BACK ON TRACK AGAIN.

Due to heavy rain, the trains will be delayed. We apologize for the inconvenience
THEY REALLY AREN'T MOVING...
IT'S GOTTEN DARK OUTSIDE...
TAKE HER SOMEWHERE! THAT'S PRETTY FAR! THAT WAY, YOU CAN SPEND MORE TIME TOGETHER ON THE WAY BACK!
I WANT TO PUNCH MYSELF FOR BEING GREEDY AND NOT CONSIDERING THE TROUBLE NANASE-SAN HAS TO GO THROUGH...
SIGH...
ACHOO!
CRAP, I FORGOT THAT NANASE-SAN WAS WET!
NANASE-SAN, PUT ON MY—

I BOUGHT IT AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE JUST NOW.
YOU CAN HAVE IT IF YOU LIKE.
HERE.
肉まん
AH, THANK YOU!
They still sell meat buns?
WHAT AM I DOING?
JUST BECAUSE I WAS JEALOUS OF TSUKI,
I CAUSED TROUBLE FOR NANASE-SAN...
HERE YOU ARE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME TOO, NISHINO-SAN.
YOU GOT QUITE WET BECAUSE YOU LET ME USE YOUR BIG UMBRELLA.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
LET'S EAT IT TOGETHER AND GET OURSELVES WARMED UP.
YEAH...

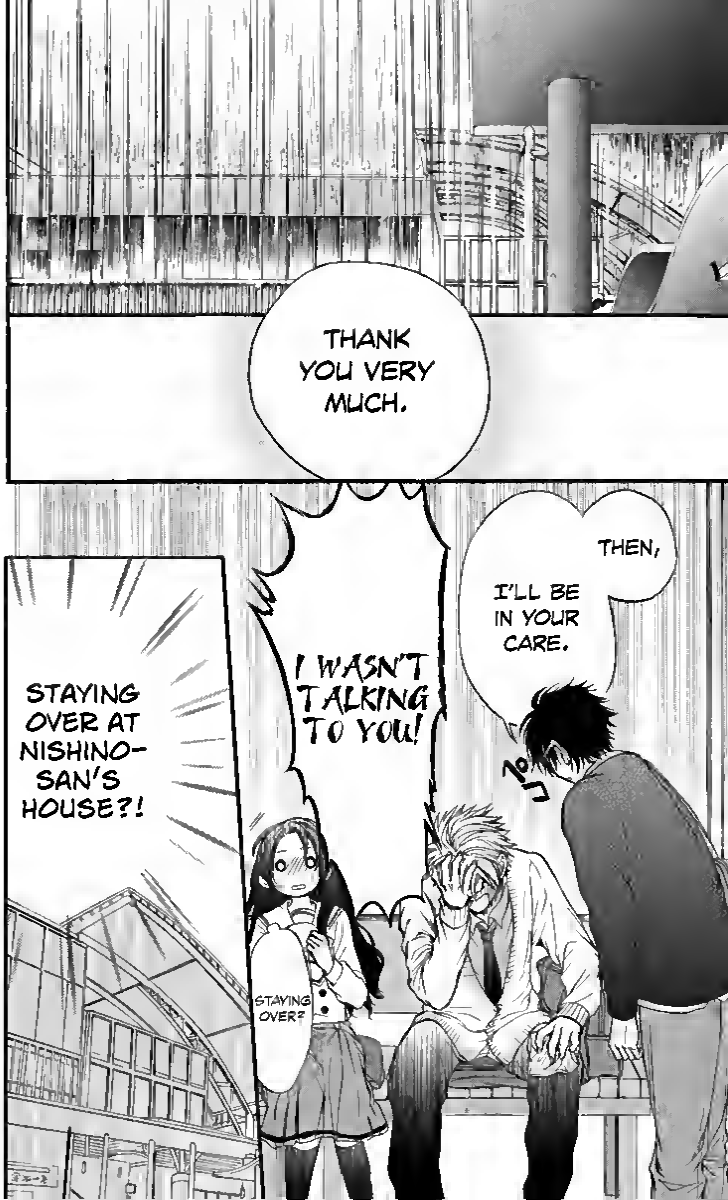

WERE YOU ACTUALLY REALLY COLD?
What to do...
UHH, A JACKET... IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN SHARE ONE WITH YOU...
HUH?
OH! A DRINK!
I'LL GO BUY A HOT DRINK FOR YOU!
I'M FINE, SO SIT DOWN!


the trains will be delayed for another hour
HUH?!
We will keep you informed of the situation—
ANOTHER HOUR?!
ANY LONGER AND I'LL MISS THE LAST BUS!
Beep beep
We apologize for the continued delay
Due to the heavy rain,

AH! MOM TEXTED ME BACK!
Sorry, Mom went drinking tonight!
EVEN THOUGH YOU NORM-ALLY DON'T DRINK!
OF ALL DAYS TO GO DRINK-ING...
HEY,
UM...
MY HOUSE IS NEARBY,

SO,
DO YOU WANT TO STAY THE NIGHT?

...HUH?


THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THEN, I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE.
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU!
STAYING OVER AT NISHINO-SAN'S HOUSE?!
STAYING OVER?